

I. THE STORY LINE

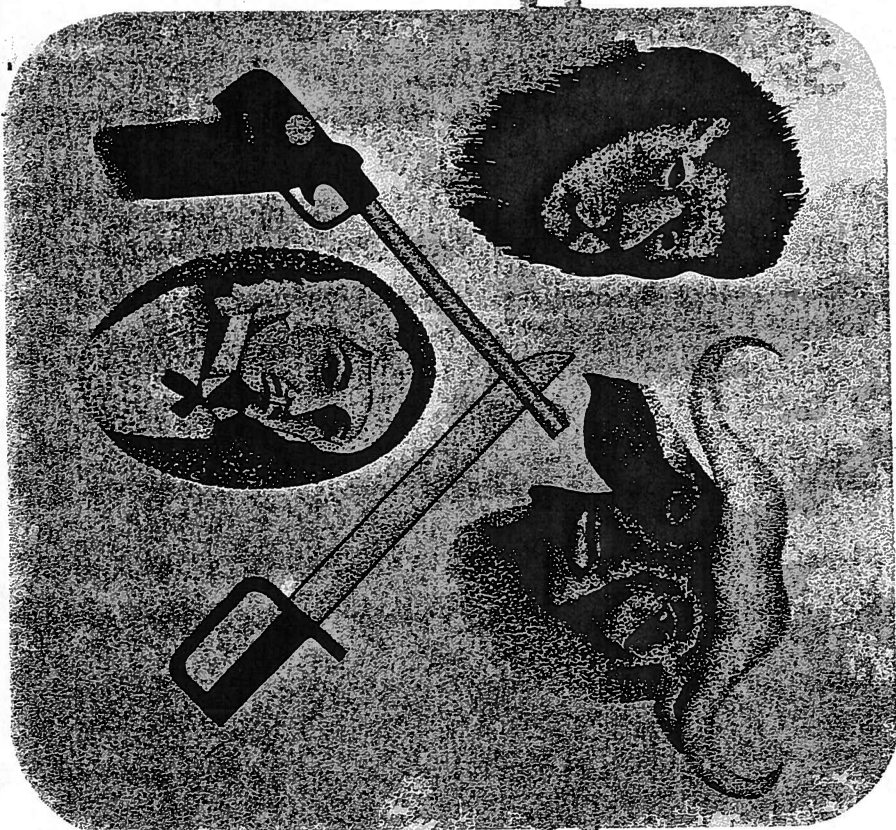
A. Digging for Facts

Circle the letter of the best response.

1. When the story opens, the ship carrying Rainsford and Whitney is near (a) the harbor of Rio, (b) the mouth of the Amazon River, (c) a place called "Ship-Trap Island."
2. Rainsford falls into the Caribbean Sea because (a) he lunges for his pipe, (b) the yacht lurches and he stumbles, (c) Whitney pushes him.
3. Rainsford swims ashore and finds himself on (a) a sandy, palm-lined beach, (b) a rocky shore where the jungle is close at hand, (c) the pier of a busy harbor.
4. The general and Rainsford are both (a) wealthy yachtmen, (b) big game hunters, (c) famous writers.
5. General Zaroff loses interest in the hunt because (a) hunting is no longer a challenge, (b) he has other interests, (c) his health is failing.

The Most Dangerous Game

Richard Connell



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6. General Zaroff's "ideal animal" is (a) the water buffalo, (b) the tiger, (c) man.
7. When the general tells Rainsford that it is man he hunts, Rainsford reacts with (a) horrified anger, (b) interest, (c) unconcern.
8. The first day out, the general discovers Rainsford and (a) leaves him alone to prolong the chase, (b) calls in the hounds to finish him, (c) shoots him.
9. Rainsford escapes into the (a) jungle, (b) swamp, (c) sea.
10. In the final scene, (a) Rainsford defeats Zaroff in a duel, (b) Zaroff defeats Rainsford in a duel, (c) both Rainsford and Zaroff die.

B. Probing for Theme

Read the three thematic statements below. Which one best applies to "The Most Dangerous Game"?

1. Hunting takes on a different look when one is the hunted instead of the hunter.
2. Hunting men is wrong, unless the men are evil.

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3. Hunting should be prohibited because it is a violent sport.

II. IN SEARCH OF MEANING

For a better understanding of the story, respond to the following questions or statements.

1. "The Most Dangerous Game" is a title that utilizes a play on the word "game." How is this true?
2. The story is full of irony. Why are Rainsford's remarks about hunting jaguars ironic? What is ironic about the general's insistence upon "the amenities of civilization"? What is the biggest irony of all where Rainsford is concerned?
3. Setting is extremely important to this story. What details of setting does Connell include that create suspense and mystery from the start? How does the description of the inside of the chateau contrast with the description of the rest of the island?
4. Characterization is also important in this story. The general presents himself as the

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most civilized of men. What in his behavior supports this? What in his behavior makes you think otherwise?

5. Explain why "He had never slept in a better bed, Rainsford decided," is an effective close. What does this short sentence tell the reader, in view of what he already knows?

III. DEVELOPING WORD POWER

Exercise A

Here are more vocabulary words. Each word appears in a sentence taken directly from the story. Read the sentence, then select the correct meaning from the four choices.

1. debacle

"After the *debacle* in Russia..."

- a. victory
- b. collapse
- c. restoration
- d. battle

2. ennui

"... the general said: '*Ennui*. Boredom.'"

- a. pity
- b. fear
- c. lack of interest
- d. weakness

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3. agility

"... the *agility* of an ape."

- a. nimbleness
- b. appearance
- c. intelligence
- d. weight

4. taint

"... a superstitious sailor can *taint* the whole ship's company with fear."

- a. color
- b. cover
- c. stain
- d. bother

5. droll

"'How extraordinarily *droll* you are!' he said."

- a. lovely
- b. witty
- c. happy
- d. thin